
Appendices

Appendix A: Quick Reference Guide

This appendix provides helpful hints on how to most effectively use the *NLSY79 User's Guide*, access the NLSY79 data, and get additional help when necessary.

A.1 NLS Documentation

The *NLSY79 User's Guide* provides in-depth information about the NLSY79 data. For more general information about the history, administration, or other cohorts of the NLS project, or more technical information about topics such as sampling, users should consult Table A.1.1 for the most appropriate NLS document.

Table A.1.1 List of NLS Documentation

<i>NLS Handbook</i>	This comprehensive introduction to the NLS gives readers general information about all NLS cohorts and the main topics of investigation for each (available at http://www.bls.gov/nls under publications link).
NLS Internet Bibliography http://www.nlsbibliography.org	This on-line searchable database provides citations for research using NLS data.
<i>User's Guides</i>	These cohort-specific guides help researchers understand NLS variables, survey instruments, documentation techniques, and other technical issues.
Questionnaires	A complete set of survey instruments from each survey year that allows researchers to view questions, supplemental information, and household interview forms.
Flowcharts	Schematic diagrams depict universe information and skip patterns for the survey instrument (1979-1992).
<i>Codebook Supplements</i>	Supplementary attachments and appendices contain variable creation, description, and coding information not present in the questionnaire.
<i>Technical Sampling Report</i>	This manual and addenda describe the sampling procedure used to select the initial survey participants, including information about weights and standard errors.
<i>Compact Disc User's Guide</i>	This guide provides installation and usage instructions for the CDs.
NLS Web Homepage http://www.bls.gov/nls	This internet site offers an overview of the NLS programs.
<i>NLS News</i> http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsnews.htm	<i>NLS News</i> , a quarterly newsletter, is distributed at no charge to all data users and other interested persons. The newsletter contains informative articles about the NLS data, announces the release of new data files, and reports any errors discovered in the data or documentation. Past issues of the <i>NLS News</i> are available on the NLS internet site.

With the exception of the bibliography and homepage, which are provided on-line, users may order any of the documents listed in Table A.1.1 by contacting NLS User Services. Contact information for NLS User Services is provided under "Additional Support" at the end of this chapter.

A.2 The NLSY79 CD

This section provides users with a brief introduction to the NLSY79 variables. Users are strongly urged to read the complete description of NLSY79 variables in chapters 3 and 4 of this *User's Guide* and to consult each year's questionnaire. A cursory introduction to the types of NLSY79 variables available is offered below.

Topics Covered

The NLSY79 survey collects information every year (or every two years, beginning with the 1994 survey) about family, income, work experience, education, marriage, lifestyle, military experience, and fertility. Occasionally, other topics are covered, including drug/alcohol use and sexual activity. Figure A.2.1 lists general topic areas covered by the data collection; more detailed discussions of specific topic areas are provided in chapter 4.

Figure A.2.1 General Topics of the NLSY79 Main Data Collection

Work & Non-Work Experiences	Attitudes & Aspirations
Training Investments	Geographic Residence Information
Schooling, School Records & Aptitude Information	Family Background & Demographic Characteristics
Military Experience	Household Composition
Income & Assets	Marital & Fertility Histories
Health Conditions, Injuries & Insurance Coverage	Childcare
Alcohol & Substance Use, Criminal Activities	

Organization of Data

The NLSY79 is a panel data collection—specifically, the same persons are interviewed in multiple survey years. The NLSY79 often asks the same questions in each interview to gauge the change in behavior and life circumstances over time. Therefore, respondents have often answered the same or similar questions at numerous interview points since 1979.

The database is organized by respondent. Users are provided with data extraction software on each CD to search this large database and extract the specific variables needed.

User Notes: Each respondent has a unique identification number (see variable R00001) ranging from 1 to 12686. This unique number was assigned to each respondent in 1979 and **does not** change with each survey round. It is good practice to include the identification code in every data extraction.

Search Strategies

Variables can be selected for extraction either using a Search List (variable name, reference number, or question number) or Search Index (any word in context, year, or area of interest). Below is a brief description of each of the search options.

Reference Number: Each variable is assigned a reference number that determines its relative chronological position in the database. That reference number never changes in the main and geocode youth files—even when waves of data are added and the database is revised. The reference number is the equivalent of a unique variable name. For the child files, the reference number assigned to a given child variable is specific to a given data release and will change in subsequent releases.

Question Number: Each year, a separate set of survey instruments is used to collect data. A question number (or questionnaire item) refers to the specific data item on the printed (or electronic) questionnaire for a given variable.

Any Word: The database retrieval software allows users to search for and select variables whose titles contain any single word or combination of words.

Year: The user can select a specific survey year and select variables collected in that specific year. Within each year, the variables are assigned to areas of interest.

Area of interest: Variables sharing a common factor, such as topic, research use, or source, or variables which have been asked identically over time are stored in organizational units called “areas of interest.” Each variable is assigned to an area of interest.

Hardware Requirements

The minimum computer standards required to access the NLSY79 data are an IBM-compatible personal computer (PC) running Microsoft Windows 95, 98, 2000, ME, or NT; a CD drive connected to the PC; and a writable disc drive connected to the PC.

Users can extract data for specific subsamples and in various formats. Step-by-step instructions for extracting data and detailed information about examining the codebook can be found in the *CD-ROM User's Guide*.

A.3 How to Get Help

Sometimes users have questions about the NLSY79 data, database retrieval software, or documentation. The following are strategies for finding answers to these questions.

On-line and Paper Documentation Help: CHRR provides both on-line and paper documentation help sources for users. The on-line help is present in the database retrieval software program. Press the F1 function key at any time in the CHRRDBA data retrieval system to receive on-line help.

Paper documentation includes the *NLSY79 User's Guide*, the *NLS Handbook*, the *NLSY79 Compact Disc User's Guide*, and assorted supplemental hard copy documentation (see Table A.1.1). The NLSY79 paper documentation contains the answers to most questions. Researchers should note that Appendix D in this guide defines a number of commonly used NLSY79 terms. If the problem is confusion over the use of a specific term, this appendix is the best source of information. The *NLS Handbook*, *User's Guides*, and other publications are available online at <http://www.bls.gov/nls/>.

Frequently Asked Questions: Table A.3.1 provides answers to commonly asked questions about the NLSY79 data and accessing the NLSY79 data.

Additional Support: If questions arise which are not answered in the documentation, contact NLS User Services at:

NLS User Services
Center for Human Resource Research
921 Chatham Lane, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43221-2418
614-442-7366
E-mail: usersvc@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu

Table A.3.1 Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
There are many variables that indicate the respondent's race and sex. Which are the correct ones to use?	For respondent's race and sex use R02147. and R02148. respectively. For more information, see the "Race, Ethnicity & Nationality" and "Gender" sections of this guide.
How does one calculate the respondent's age at interview?	Respondent's age at interview has already been calculated for each year and is in area of interest "Key Variables." Area of interest "Key Variables" has many created variables that the researcher will find useful.
Within the data, how are the respondents identified?	See variable R00001., Identification Code. Each respondent has a unique identification number ranging from 1 to 12686. It is good practice to include the identification code in every data extraction.
The highest grade completed variables have too many valid skips to be useful. Is there something wrong?	Questions on highest grade completed are asked only of respondents who have been enrolled since the last interview. This explains the large number of valid skips. However, CHRR provides created cumulative highest grade completed variables correct for all interviewed respondents. See, for example, 'Highest Grade Completed as of May Survey Year (Revised)' in area of interest "Key Variables."
Is there an income measure for the respondent's family?	Yes, see variables with the title 'Total Net Family Income' in area of interest "Key Variables." Consult the "Income" section of this guide for additional information on the creation of this variable.
What are areas of interest?	All variables have been assigned to at least one of several areas of interest or groups of variables sharing a common factor. For example, income variables are in area of interest "Income," and marital history is in "Marriage." One way to search the data is by area of interest.
There seem to be several variables in the same year that have the same or nearly the same title but the frequencies are different.	This would mean that the same question has been asked to different universes of respondents depending on the skip patterns of the questions. The questionnaires provide the skip patterns to tell you the universe of respondents who answered each question.
The codebook for the industry codes says to "see attachment 3." What is attachment 3?	Attachment 3 lists the individual industry or occupation codes that are too numerous to list in the codebook. Attachment 3 is part of the <i>Codebook Supplement</i> , which includes most of the attachments and appendices that are listed in the codebook.
When the next year's data become available, can I just get that one year?	No, the CDs are re-pressed for each new release of data to include all years. Single year data files are not released.
What's the difference between reference numbers and question numbers?	Reference numbers are unique variable names that have been assigned sequentially beginning with R00001. through to the end. Question numbers are unique only to each particular year, and they are used to find the question within each year's questionnaire.

Appendix B: Standard Errors and Design Effects

This appendix contains information on standard errors and design effects for the NLSY79 sample, briefly discussing how to use these two statistical factors. It then has tables for the first round (1979) and the latest available data, Round 19 (2000). Only a few intervening years have been included for space reasons; users interested in the intervening years should contact NLS User Services to obtain the *NLSY79 Technical Sampling Report and Appendices*.

Standard errors have been explicitly computed for a number of statistics based upon the entire NLSY79 sample (total, civilian, and military) and a number of sex and/or race subclasses. Standard errors for other statistics (defined over the entire sample or the subclasses) may be approximated with use of the DEFT factors given in the tables below. Users who examine Tables B.5-B.8 will note that CHRR has calculated standard errors for different variables over time.

Approximate Standard Errors: Percentages

The following formula approximates a standard error of a percentage:

$$se(P) \cong \frac{DEFT \sqrt{P(100 - P)}}{\sqrt{n}}$$

where:

- se(P) = the approximate standard error for the percentage P
- P = the sample percentage (ranging from 0 to 100)
- n = the actual unweighted sample size for the demographic subclass from which the percentage was developed
- DEFT = the appropriate DEFT factor for the particular demographic subclass and sample type from which the percentage was developed

For example, for 1996 the appropriate DEFT factor for estimating a standard error of the percentage of Hispanic males who were high school dropouts is 1.17744 (see proportion column, row seven of Table B.2). Assuming the calculated sample (P) equals 22.19 percent and the unweighted sample estimate size is 946, then:

$$se(P) \cong \frac{1.17744 * \sqrt{22.19 * (100 - 22.19)}}{\sqrt{946}} \\ \cong 1.5907$$

To approximate the standard error of the corresponding projected population total (NP/100), calculate:

$$se(NP/100) \cong N[se(P)/100]$$

where:

$se(NP/100)$ = the approximate standard error of the projected population total corresponding to a percentage P within a particular demographic subclass and sample type.

N = the appropriate projected total population base for the particular demographic subclass and sample type.

For example, if the projected total population base for Hispanic males is 1,030,861, the projected number of civilian Hispanic male high school dropouts is equal to NP/100 or $1,030,861 * 22.19/100 = 228,748$. Thus, the approximate standard error for the total number of Hispanic male high school dropouts is:

$$\begin{aligned} se(NP/100) &\cong (1,030,861) (1.5907/100) \\ &\cong 16,397.9 \end{aligned}$$

Note that the 1.5907 came from the previous calculation.

Approximate Standard Errors: Means

One can compute approximate standard errors for means as follows:

$$se(X) \cong DEFT \sqrt{(s^2 / n)}$$

where:

$se(X)$ = the approximate standard error of the mean

DEFT = the appropriate DEFT factor for the particular demographic subclass and sample type from which the mean was developed

S^2 = the weighted element variance computed for the demographic subclass and sample type from which the mean was developed

n = the unweighted sample size for the particular mean.

For example, for 1979 the DEFT factor for all Hispanics is 1.45699 (see means column, row four of Table B.1). To approximate the standard error of the mean number of years of education completed by this subclass, where the weighted element variance is .72955 and the sample size is 77, compute:

$$\begin{aligned} se(X) &\cong 1.45699 * \sqrt{(.72955 / 77)} \\ &\cong .1418 \end{aligned}$$

Table B.1 Deft Factors for Round 1 (1979)

	Proportions	Means
All Youth	1.72547	1.71282
Males	1.46605	1.56808
Females	1.58029	1.49720
Hispanics	1.44342	1.45699
Blacks	1.35303	1.43730
Non-black/non-Hispanics	1.58686	1.56996
Hispanic Males	1.24321	1.22329
Hispanic Females	1.40353	1.25095
Black Males	1.19457	1.21378
Black Females	1.24877	1.25243
Non-black/non-Hispanic Males	1.33775	1.45962
Non-black/non-Hispanic Females	1.46889	1.37581

Table B.2 Deft Factors for Round 17 (1996)

	Proportions	Means
All Youth	1.35848	1.967232
Males	1.28523	1.667333
Females	1.24536	1.621727
Hispanics	1.28275	1.584298
Blacks	1.19735	1.423025
Non-black/non-Hispanics	1.19087	1.713184
Hispanic Males	1.17744	1.407125
Hispanic Females	1.13217	1.264911
Black Males	1.16541	1.174734
Black Females	1.13258	1.319091
Non-black/non-Hispanic Males	1.13217	1.456022
Non-black/non-Hispanic Females	1.09545	1.405347

Table B.3 Deft Factors for Round 18 (1998)

	Proportions	Means
All Youth	1.38301	1.96469
Males	1.30836	1.66433
Females	1.28311	1.60000
Hispanics	1.21917	1.52807
Blacks	1.19164	1.40890
Non-black/non-Hispanics	1.17937	1.67481
Hispanic Males	1.19248	1.37659
Hispanic Females	1.13418	1.25100
Black Males	1.14336	1.12694
Black Females	1.12088	1.31529
Non-black/non-Hispanic Males	1.18195	1.43353
Non-black/non-Hispanic Females	1.11028	1.37133

Table B.4 Deft Factors for Round 19 (2000)¹

	Proportions	Means
All Youth	1.36423	1.90919
Males	1.26007	1.61864
Females	1.21244	1.58588
Hispanics	1.24544	1.48492
Blacks	1.19954	1.42127
Non-black/non-Hispanics	1.20052	1.62327
Hispanic Males	1.19722	1.31909
Hispanic Females	1.09240	1.22474
Black Males	1.20277	1.18322
Black Females	1.08282	1.34907
Non-black/non-Hispanic Males	1.12750	1.39463
Non-black/non-Hispanic Females	1.13908	1.34907

¹Deft factors for 2002 were not available at the printing of this guide. For availability contact NLS User Services.

Appendix B: Standard Errors and Design Effects

Table B.5 Standard Errors for Round 1 (1979)

	All	Male	Female	Hispanic	Black	Non-black, non-Hisp.	Male Hisp.	Female Hisp.	Male Black	Female Black	Male NB/NH	Female NB/NH
Prop. HS dropout	0.00471	0.00627	0.00545	0.01385	0.00835	0.00527	0.01744	0.01814	0.01232	0.00928	0.00710	0.00619
Prop. attending HS	0.00735	0.00893	0.01006	0.01554	0.01151	0.00904	0.02176	0.02146	0.01460	0.01628	0.01085	0.01233
Prop attending college	0.00597	0.00729	0.00778	0.01037	0.00784	0.00710	0.01230	0.01460	0.00919	0.01119	0.00862	0.00947
Prop. HS graduate	0.00658	0.00776	0.00905	0.01277	0.01033	0.00785	0.01440	0.01957	0.01217	0.01448	0.00926	0.01094
Mean yrs. of school completed	0.02900	0.04000	0.03800	0.08200	0.05700	0.03400	0.10000	0.10500	0.06100	0.07400	0.04600	0.04400
Mean yrs. of school expected	0.04600	0.05900	0.04700	0.10800	0.06400	0.05500	0.12500	0.11700	0.07900	0.07900	0.07100	0.05500
Prop. living in South	0.02286	0.02353	0.02324	0.05641	0.04264	0.02544	0.04973	0.06060	0.04555	0.04084	0.02610	0.02601
Mean #'s of children expected	0.02400	0.02700	0.03200	0.05800	0.04600	0.02800	0.06500	0.07000	0.05600	0.05500	0.03100	0.03700
Prop. married	0.00454	0.00365	0.00686	0.01023	0.00533	0.00570	0.00923	0.01646	0.00440	0.00884	0.00448	0.00855

Table B.6 Standard Errors for Round 17 (1996)

	All	Male	Female	Hispanic	Black	Non-black, non-Hisp.	Male Hisp.	Female Hisp.	Male Black	Female Black	Male NB/NH	Female NB/NH
Prop. not on active duty	0.001	0.003	0.001	0.005	0.004	0.002	0.009	0.001	0.007	0.003	0.003	0.001
Prop. high school dropouts	0.006	0.008	0.006	0.014	0.009	0.007	0.018	0.016	0.012	0.010	0.009	0.007
Prop. in high school or less	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.002	0.001	0.000
Prop. attending college	0.003	0.003	0.005	0.006	0.005	0.004	0.008	0.009	0.005	0.007	0.004	0.005
Prop. high school graduate	0.006	0.007	0.006	0.015	0.009	0.007	0.018	0.016	0.012	0.010	0.009	0.007
Prop. living in South	0.034	0.034	0.036	0.052	0.046	0.039	0.049	0.059	0.046	0.048	0.038	0.041
Prop. currently married	0.007	0.010	0.010	0.016	0.013	0.008	0.020	0.021	0.018	0.017	0.011	0.011
Prop. employed at present	0.006	0.007	0.009	0.015	0.009	0.007	0.017	0.020	0.014	0.013	0.007	0.010
Prop. unemployed	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.006	0.005	0.003	0.007	0.009	0.008	0.008	0.004	0.004
Prop. in labor force	0.005	0.005	0.008	0.013	0.008	0.006	0.015	0.018	0.012	0.012	0.006	0.010
Prop. gov. training	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.003	0.002	0.001	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.001
Average number of children	0.023	0.027	0.030	0.054	0.035	0.028	0.067	0.065	0.040	0.050	0.033	0.036
Average highest grade completed	0.060	0.074	0.063	0.109	0.065	0.073	0.137	0.119	0.074	0.081	0.091	0.077
Prop. currently enrolled	0.003	0.004	0.005	0.006	0.005	0.004	0.008	0.008	0.005	0.007	0.004	0.006

Appendix B: Standard Errors & Design Effects

Table B.7 Standard Errors for Round 18 (1998)

	All	Male	Female	Hispanic	Black	Non-black, non-Hisp.	Male Hisp.	Female Hisp.	Male Black	Female Black	Male NB/NH	Female NB/NH
Prop. not on active duty	0.001	0.003	0.001	0.005	0.003	0.002	0.008	0.002	0.006	0.003	0.003	0.001
Prop. high school dropouts	0.005	0.007	0.006	0.014	0.009	0.006	0.017	0.016	0.012	0.010	0.009	0.007
Prop. in high school or less	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.001
Prop. attending college	0.003	0.003	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.003	0.005	0.008	0.005	0.007	0.004	0.005
Prop. high school graduate	0.005	0.007	0.006	0.014	0.009	0.006	0.017	0.016	0.012	0.010	0.009	0.007
Prop. living in South	0.035	0.034	0.037	0.051	0.045	0.039	0.047	0.058	0.044	0.047	0.039	0.041
Prop. currently married	0.008	0.010	0.011	0.015	0.012	0.008	0.021	0.021	0.018	0.016	0.011	0.010
Prop. employed at present	0.006	0.007	0.009	0.014	0.009	0.007	0.017	0.020	0.012	0.014	0.008	0.011
Prop. unemployed	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.005	0.005	0.002	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.007	0.003	0.003
Prop. in labor force	0.005	0.006	0.009	0.013	0.008	0.006	0.016	0.019	0.011	0.011	0.006	0.011
Prop. gov. training	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.004	0.001	0.001
Average number of children	0.024	0.028	0.030	0.050	0.036	0.028	0.061	0.065	0.042	0.050	0.033	0.035
Average highest grade completed	0.061	0.077	0.063	0.114	0.066	0.073	0.147	0.121	0.074	0.082	0.093	0.074
Prop. currently enrolled	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.003	0.005	0.008	0.005	0.007	0.004	0.005

Appendix B: Standard Errors and Design Effects

Table B.8 Standard Errors for Round 19 (2000)¹

	All	Male	Female	Hispanic	Black	Non-black, non-Hisp.	Male Hisp.	Female Hisp.	Male Black	Female Black	Male NB/NH	Female NB/NH
Prop. not on active duty	0.001	0.002	0.000	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.006	0.001	0.005	0.002	0.003	0.000
Prop. high school dropouts	0.005	0.007	0.006	0.014	0.009	0.006	0.017	0.015	0.013	0.010	0.009	0.006
Prop. in high school or less	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000
Prop. attending college	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.006	0.004	0.003	0.008	0.009	0.004	0.007	0.003	0.005
Prop. high school graduate	0.005	0.007	0.006	0.014	0.009	0.006	0.017	0.015	0.013	0.010	0.009	0.006
Prop. living in South	0.035	0.034	0.037	0.052	0.043	0.039	0.049	0.059	0.044	0.046	0.038	0.041
Prop. currently married	0.008	0.010	0.010	0.014	0.012	0.008	0.022	0.021	0.018	0.015	0.011	0.010
Prop. employed at present	0.006	0.006	0.009	0.012	0.009	0.007	0.014	0.018	0.014	0.012	0.007	0.010
Prop. gov. training	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.003	0.002	0.001	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.001
Average number of children	0.024	0.029	0.030	0.048	0.037	0.027	0.061	0.064	0.046	0.051	0.034	0.035
Average highest grade completed	0.061	0.076	0.065	0.114	0.069	0.074	0.146	0.118	0.078	0.089	0.092	0.078
Prop. currently enrolled	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.006	0.004	0.003	0.008	0.009	0.005	0.007	0.003	0.005

Notes: Users are cautioned that by round 17 cohort changes have made some categories much less relevant. In particular, the extremely small subsample sizes for "Proportion government training participant" and "Proportion in high school or less" make these categories statistically suspect. They have been kept in the table for historical continuity.

¹Standard errors for 2002 were not available at the printing of this guide. For availability contact NLS User Services.

Appendix C: NLSY79 Areas of Interest

Note that some area of interest names were changed in 2000 to make them more understandable. If the name of an area changed, the old name appears in parenthesis; if no change occurred, only one name is listed.

Name: Alcohol

Description: This area of interest contains the variables relating to each respondent's consumption of alcohol in the last month, how frequently it was used, quantity consumed, and whether such consumption has impacted school work or job performance. The 1988 survey included questions on relatives of the respondent who were problem drinkers, including length of time the respondent resided with such relatives. The 1989 survey collected information on the extent to which the use of alcohol interfered, during the past year, with various aspects of the respondent's life. Exception: alcohol questions fielded during 1992 can be found in the "Drugs" area of interest.

Sources of Data: The "Alcohol Use" sections of the 1982–85, 1988, 1989, and 1994 questionnaires.

Related Areas of Interest: See also the "Drugs," "Illegal," and "Family Background" files for data on alcohol use and the various birth record files for drug and alcohol use during pregnancy information.

Name: Assets

Description: This area of interest identifies the asset information collected during the 1985–90 and 1992–2000 surveys, e.g., types of and total market value of property owned by the respondent (e.g., real estate, farm, business); the value of other assets, including vehicles and savings accounts; and the total amount of debts owed, including mortgages, back taxes, and debts over \$500.

Sources of Data: The "Assets" & "Income" sections of the 1985–90 and 1992–2002 questionnaires.

Related Areas of Interest: Income

Name: Attitudes & Influence (formerly ATTINFLN)

Description: This area of interest contains the discrete set of nine variables dealing with the attitude of the most influential person in each respondent's life toward certain key career, occupational, residence, and childbearing decisions.

Sources of Data: The "On Significant Others" section of the 1979 questionnaire.

Related Areas of Interest: See the “Attitude” area of interest for self-esteem, Rotter’s locus of control variables, the Pearlin mastery series, etc.

Name: Attitude

Description: This area of interest contains an assortment of variables from the various survey years dealing with each respondent’s knowledge of the world of work; perceived problems in getting a good job; the Rotter Internal-External Locus of Control Scale; the Pearlin Mastery Scale; the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, the CES-D questions; respondent’s attitudes toward women and work; occupational aspirations, work commitment; future expectations about marriage, education and employment; and knowledge of AIDS.

Sources of Data: The “World of Work,” “Rotter Scale,” “Family Attitudes,” “Aspirations & Expectations,” and “AIDS Knowledge” sections of the 1979–84 and 1987–88 questionnaires, and the “Health” section of the 1992 and 1994 questionnaires.

Related Areas of Interest: See also the “Attitudes toward Job Offer” and “Attitudes & Influence” files. The CES-D questions in the special health module administered as respondents turn age 40 are in the “Health Module 40 & Over” area of interest.

Name: Attitude toward Job Offer (formerly ATTJBOFR)

Description: This area of interest contains a select number of questions dealing with whether respondents would accept various hypothetical job offers to work at certain jobs at varying pay rates, e.g., would the respondent accept a full-time job making hamburgers at \$2.50 or \$3.50 or \$5.00 an hour.

Sources of Data: The “On Jobs/Pay” section of the 1979 questionnaire.

Name: Birth Record xxxx (formerly BIRTHRXX)

Description: Beginning in 1985, these areas of interest contain an update to the pregnancy/live birth record, contraceptive use in past month, expected next birth, wantedness information, a menarche and first intercourse update, residence of biological and non-biological children, prenatal care, illnesses and well baby care, infant feeding practices, and child visitation practices of the absent parent.

Sources of Data: The “Fertility” section of the questionnaire from 1985 through the latest available year.

Related Areas of Interest: Children, Birth Record, Fertility and Relationship History/Created

Name: Birth Record (formerly BIRTHREC)

Description: This area of interest contains a complete retrospective on all pregnancies for female respondents and all live births for male respondents, including ideal/expected number of children; dates of birth and death, sex, and current residence for all live births; dates of all pregnancy losses; and current and retrospective contraceptive use. In addition, data for 1983 and 1984 contain information on age at first intercourse, prenatal health care, and infant feeding practices, while the 1984 survey data includes a confidential abortion report, visitation practices of the parent not living in the same household with child, and information on sex education courses attended by respondent.

Sources of Data: The “Fertility” sections of the 1982, 1983, and 1984 questionnaires; the 1984 confidential abortion card; and the 1983 *Fertility Supplement*.

Related Areas of Interest: “Children,” the 1985–2002 “Birth Record xxxx” files, and “Fertility and Relationship History/Created.”

Name: Between Job Gaps (formerly BTWNJOBS)

Description: This area of interest contains information on what the respondent was doing during the time periods when s/he was not employed or in the military, e.g., information on weeks not working, weeks spent looking for work, and reason not looking for work. This information is available for up to six periods for each survey year.

Sources of Data: The various questionnaire sections entitled “On Periods When R Not Working or in Military” or “Gaps.”

Name: Childcare (formerly CHILDCAR)

Description: This area of interest contains, for the 1982–85 survey years, information on location and types of childcare used and types of childcare expenses incurred over the past four weeks for certain children whose mothers were employed, in school, or in training. The 1986 and 1988 questionnaires collected similar information from all mothers, including a first-three-years-of-life retrospective for all biological children. The 1992 information is gathered on childcare arrangements used during the first three years of life. The 1994–2002 information updates childcare from previous years for children’s first three years of life, if not complete. The 1989 survey contained one question, asked of employed respondents, regarding the impact of childcare problems on their employment situation.

Sources of Data: The “Childcare” sections of the 1982–86, 1988, 1992, 1994, and 2002 questionnaires and the “Fertility” section of the 1987 and 1989 questionnaires.

Related Areas of Interest: Child Record Form/Biological, Child Record Form/Nonbiological, Misc. xxxx, Government Jobs, Government Training, and Time Use.

Name: Children

Description: This area of interest contains the limited number of fertility questions that were asked during the 1979–81 surveys. Included are data on dates of birth for each live birth, number of children wanted/expected, ideal family size, and when the next child is expected.

Sources of Data: The “Fertility” sections of the 1979–81 questionnaires.

Related Areas of Interest: “Birth Record,” the 1985–2002 “Birth Record xxxx” files, and “Fertility and Relationship History/Created.”

Name: Common

Description: This area of interest contains commonly used variables from several survey years. Included are (1) each respondent’s identification number, sample type, race, sex, and date of birth; (2) identification numbers/relationship codes of other youth in the same household who were interviewed in 1979; (3) the household identification number; (4) interview-specific information including reason for non-interview, week numbers of interview date and of last interview, etc.; and (5) various employment status variables.

Sources of Data: The variables listed in “Common” are a composite of assigned codes, created variables, and information from the 1978 screener and/or the regularly administered questionnaires.

Name: CPS

Description: This area of interest contains *Current Population Survey* variables that establish current labor force status, i.e., activity during most of survey week (employed, unemployed, out of the labor force). Included are job characteristics, global job satisfaction, and hours worked per week for current/most recent job, job search behavior for those unemployed, and plans to seek employment for those out of the labor force. The 1993 commuting time and transportation method variables are located in this area of interest. The CPS section was not included in the 2000 and 2002 surveys.

Sources of Data: The “Current Labor Force Status - CPS Questions” section of each survey instrument with the exception of the 2000 and 2002 surveys.

Related Areas of Interest: See also the “Key Variables” and “Job Information” files for created employment variables and the “Misc. xxxx” files for additional CPS variables.

Name: CPS 2nd Self-Correct 1994 (CPSBK294), CPS 1994 (CPS94), CPS 1996 (CPS96), CPS 2nd Self-Correct 1996 (CPSBCK296), CPS 1st Self-Correct 1994 (CPSBCK94), CPS 1st Self-Correct 1996 (CPSBCK96)

Description: These areas of interest contain variables from the revised CPS section beginning in 1994.

Sources of Data: The “Current Labor Force Status - CPS Questions” section of each survey instrument.

Related Areas of Interest: See also the “Key Variables” and “Job Information” files for created employment variables and the “Misc. xxxx” files for additional CPS variables.

Name: Child Record Form/Biological (formerly CRFBIO)

Description: This area of interest contains information from the *Children’s Record Form*, an interviewing aid used in the 1985–1998 surveys to (1) enumerate all biological children; (2) provide identifying information on each child, e.g., an identification number, date of birth, sex, deceased or adopted status; and (3) identify missing health care and feeding practice information, which needed to be gathered during select surveys.

Sources of Data: The *Children’s Record Forms (CRF)*.

Related Areas of Interest: Birth Record xxxx, Child Record Form/Nonbiological, Childcare

Name: Child Record Form/Nonbiological (formerly CRFNBIO)

Description: This area of interest contains information from the *Children’s Record Form*, an interviewing aid which was used in the 1985–1998 surveys to (1) enumerate all nonbiological children and (2) provide identifying information on each child, e.g., an identification number, date of birth, sex, deceased/adopted status.

Sources of Data: The *Children’s Record Forms (CRF)*.

Related Areas of Interest: Birth Record xxxx, Child Record Form/Biological

Name: Degrees & Certificates (formerly DGRECERT)

Description: This area of interest contains various types of information from the 1979–84 and 1988–2002 surveys including the types of college degrees, other certificates, and licenses (including driver’s license) that respondents received prior to the first interview and since last interview.

Sources of Data: The “Other Training” and “Regular Schooling” sections of the 1979–84, 1988–2002 questionnaires.

Related Areas of Interest: School

Name: Drugs

Description: This area of interest contains responses to the special sets of drug questions that were asked in the 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, and 1998 surveys. Included is information on age at first use and extent of use of such substances as cigarettes, marijuana/hashish, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, heroin, and other drugs; a monthly retrospective look at respondents' use of marijuana/hashish during 1979–84; and use of such substances on the job. The 1992 variables relating to alcohol use are located in the “Drugs” area of interest.

Sources of Data: The “Drugs” section of the 1984 and 1988 questionnaires and the 1988, 1992, 1994, and 1998 *Drug Use Supplements*.

Related Areas of Interest: See also the “Alcohol” and “Illegal” areas of interest for questions on alcohol and marijuana use as well as drug dealing. The various birth record files contain variables on cigarette, alcohol, and other drug use during pregnancy.

Name: Family Background (formerly FAMBKGN, FAMBKGD)

Description: These areas of interest contain the extensive family background information gathered in the 1979 survey: country/state of respondent's birth; identification of persons with whom the respondent lived at age 14; birthplace, education, and work experience of respondent's mother and father; racial/ethnic origin; periods of time residing with parents; etc. Also included in this file are the religious affiliation and attendance questions asked in 1979 and 1982; the 1979, 1980, and 1982 residential mobility questions; identification of the language used in the administration of the household interview forms for each survey year; the detailed set of childhood residence questions asked during the 1988 survey; the special set of immigration questions collected during 1990 on aspects of the respondent's first and most recent entry into the U.S.; and the 1993 sibling roster series. This area of interest also contains family background information on twins and triplets that was gathered in the 1994 survey. The questions were designed to verify these special sibling pairings.

Sources of Data: Various sections from the 1979–87 questionnaires including the “Family Background” and “Residence” sections, as well as the *Household Interview Forms*. The 1988 data were collected from the “Childhood Residence” section of the survey instrument and the accompanying *Childhood Residence Calendar*. The 1990 immigration information was collected using the “Immigration” section of the questionnaire. The 1993 sibling questions can be found in “Marital Status.”

Name: Fertility and Relationship History/Created (formerly FERTILE)

Description: This area of interest contains constructed and edited fertility variables including (1) revisions to dates of birth, gender, and usual living arrangements for all respondents' children; (2) other constructed variables commonly used in fertility research, i.e., beginning and ending dates of marriages, age at first marriage, at first birth, spacing between births, and between marriage and first birth, etc.; and (3) a variable evaluating the consistency of the longitudinal fertility record.

Sources of Data: Entirely created variables based on the 1982–2002 fertility data and 1979–2000 marriage data.

Related Areas of Interest: “Children,” “Child Record Form/Biological,” “Birth Record,” and the 1985–2002 “Birth Record xxxx” files.

Name: Geocode xxxx (formerly GEOXX)

Description: This area of interest contains information on residential-geographic variables and environmental characteristics of each respondent's county and SMSA of current residence.

Sources of Data: *County & City Data Book*, *City Reference File*, Appendix 10 in the *NLSY79 Codebook Supplement*

Related Areas of Interest: Family Background, Key Variables, Misc. xxxx

Name: Government Training (formerly GOVTRAIN)

Description: This area of interest contains information on up to two government training programs in which a respondent was enrolled since the last interview. Included is information on the name of the government training sponsor, current enrollment status, dates/hours of participation, periods of nonparticipation, whether the program was part of a CETA/JTPA or WIN affiliated program, type of occupational/OJT training received, types of training services provided (job counseling, GED preparation, classroom training, skills training, etc.), various supportive services received, and income/rate of pay received during participation.

Sources of Data: The “On Government Training” sections of each questionnaire.

Related Areas of Interest: Training, Government Jobs

Name: Health

Description: This area of interest contains information on the presence of health conditions preventing or limiting labor market activity including, for select survey years, the specific types of health conditions, their causes, and parts of the body affected. The 1988–90 and 1992–2000 questions on work-related injuries, including the type of injury and its impact on employment and the 1989, 1990, and 1992–2002 source of health/hospitalization insurance variables are located in this area of interest.

Sources of Data: The “On Health” sections of each questionnaire.

Related Areas of Interest: See also “Alcohol” and “Drugs,” as well as the several birth record files for prenatal, neonatal, and infant health and health-related issues. The special questions asked as respondents reach age 40 are located in the “Health Module 40 & Over” area of interest.

Name: Household Record (formerly HHRECORD)

Description: This area of interest contains information for up to 15 household members currently living in the respondent’s household, including each person’s sex, relationship to respondent, age, highest grade completed, and work experience in past year. The household enumeration is completed during the household interview each survey year.

Sources of Data: The various versions of the *Household Interview Forms*.

Related Areas of Interest: The specific version of the household record form administered to a given respondent can be found in the “Misc. xxxx” files for 1979–1986; the language in which the household record form was administered is in the “Interviewer Remarks” file; and income variables from the household record form are found in “Income.”

Name: Health Module 40 & Over (formerly HLTHMOD40)

Description: The goal of this area of interest is to gather a complete health inventory to help researchers understand a respondent’s work conditions, limitations and highlight relationships between health and retirement decisions. The age of 40 was selected so that NLSY79 researchers have a baseline report on a respondent’s health conditions before more serious problems develop in older age.

Sources of Data: Contains the SF-12 scale, questions on parental health modified from the NLS of Mature Women survey, and questions primarily taken from the HRS (Health and Retirement Survey).

Related Areas of Interest: Health, Drugs, Alcohol, Jobs

Name: Illegal

Description: This area of interest contains information on respondents' participation in and income from various delinquent and criminal activities such as skipping school, alcohol/marijuana use, vandalism, shoplifting, drug dealing and robbery as well as reported contacts with the criminal justice system.

Sources of Data: The "Delinquency and Drugs" and "Reported Police Contacts" sections of the 1980 questionnaire as well as the confidential questionnaire supplement *Form J*.

Related Areas of Interest: Alcohol, Drugs

Name: Income

Description: This area of interest contains information on income received in the past calendar year from various sources including (1) earned income of the respondent and spouse from such sources as military service, wages and salary, and farm or own business; (2) monthly income amounts received by the respondent and spouse from Unemployment Compensation, AFDC, food stamps, and other public assistance; (3) sources of income for other family members; and (4) other components of the computed variable 'Total Net Family Income'.

Sources of Data: The "Income" section of each questionnaire and the income questions of the various *Household Interview Forms*.

Related Areas of Interest: Assets, Key Variables

Name: Interviewer Remarks (formerly INTRMK)

Description: This area of interest contains interview-specific and interviewer comment information, including the dates and length of each interview; type of interview (personal or telephone); whether the interview was conducted with a proxy; a record of the attempts made to locate each respondent; language used to conduct the interview; various interviewer remarks on respondent's race, attitude, understanding of the questions, and presence of anyone else during the interview; and interviewer identification codes.

Sources of Data: The "Interviewer Remarks" section of each questionnaire.

Related Areas of Interest: Misc. xxxx

Name: Job Search (formerly JOBFIND)

Description: This area of interest contains information on (1) the job search methods (state or private employment offices, classified ads, friends and relatives, labor unions, etc.) used by unemployed

respondents to find employment; (2) the success of the various methods; (3) reason for nonacceptance of any job offers obtained; (4) rate of pay for the job offer; and (5) questions on methods used to find specific jobs reported in 1994–2002. The reference period differs across survey years, with the 1981 questions directed towards job search methods used in the past four weeks, the 1982 questions towards the most recent job obtained, the 1986 questions detailing the methods used in each of the past 12 months, and the 1987 series gathering information on the methods used each month (for up to six months) during the least recent period not employed. There are no questions in the “Job Search” area of interest from 1988 to 1993. In 1994, 1996, and 2000, this area of interest contains questions that state the job search methods that lead to the current job plus a record of all methods used while searching. Additionally, information is available on the pay rates of rejected job offers.

Source of Data: The “Job Search” section of the 1981 questionnaire; the “Job Finding” section of the 1982 questionnaire; and the “On Periods When R Not Working or in Military” section of the 1986 and 1987 questionnaires.

Related Areas of Interest: “Misc. xxxx” for methods of seeking employment in past four weeks (CPS series); “CPS 1994,” “CPS 1st Self-Correct 1994,” “CPS 1996,” “CPS 1st Self Correct 1996,” and “CPS 1998” for job search methods in the last four weeks; “CPS 1996” for questions on job search while employed.

Name: Job Information (formerly JOBINFO)

Description: This area of interest contains information on the jobs each respondent held since the date of last interview, including start-stop dates of employment, hours worked, reason left job, and job characteristics (e.g., occupation, class of worker, rate of pay, wages set by collective bargaining for up to five jobs held). A series of tenure variables reflecting the total tenure in weeks accumulated for each of up to five employers was added for each year to the NLSY79 data release beginning in 1991.

Sources of Data: The “Jobs” section of the 1979 questionnaire and from 1980 onward the *Employer Supplements*.

Related Areas of Interest: CPS (some years), Jobs

Name: Jobs

Description: This area of interest contains select variables relating to (1) jobs held since last interview and (2) whether those jobs were part of a cooperative work study program, college work study program, or some type of government-sponsored job held since the last interview.

Sources of Data: The “On Jobs” section of each questionnaire.

Name: Jobs before 1978 (formerly JOBSB478)

Description: This area of interest contains the 12 variables asked in the 1979 survey dealing with characteristics of the job in which the respondent last worked for two or more consecutive weeks. Included is information on date last worked, occupation and industry codes of job, class of worker, and whether the job was a government job or in private business.

Sources of Data: The “On Last Job Lasting Two Weeks or More” section of the 1979 questionnaire.

Name: Jobs after School (formerly JOBSCHL)

Description: This area of interest contains a limited number of variables on respondent’s work experience prior to the 1979 interview. Information on weeks and hours worked in 1975, 1976, and 1977, as well as characteristics of the first job a respondent held after s/he left school including dates of employment, industry/occupation, pay rate, hours worked, and reason left first job, is provided.

Sources of Data: The “On Work Experience Prior to January 1, 1978” section of the 1979 questionnaire.

Name: Key Variables (formerly KEYVARS)

Description: This area of interest contains the *KEY* variables as well as other summary variables created by the Center for Human Resource Research from raw data. They encompass a wide range of employment, military, education, income, poverty status, local labor market unemployment rate, and various other geographic-related variables.

Sources of Data: The variables on this file are all created with the exception of the ‘Type of Residence’ variables, which are derived from the *Household Interview Forms*.

Related Areas of Interest: This area of interest contains the primary longitudinal (all main file) created variables. Other constructed variables can be found in “Job Information,” the supplemental “Fertility and Relationship History/Created” area of interest, and the special NLSY79 geocode, work history, and child data files.

Name: Last Interview Information (formerly LASTINFO)

Description: This area of interest contains key information on the respondent that was collected at the last interview (e.g., dates of last interview, marital status, number of children, high school completion status, names of previous employers, etc.). These data appear on the *Information Sheet*, which is used by the interviewers or the CAPI software to route the respondent through the survey.

Sources of Data: The *Information Sheet* for each survey year. Note: Data that appear on the interviewer's *Information Sheet* are found in the codebook following the main survey variables.

Name: Machine Check (formerly MACHCHK)

Description: This area of interest contains miscellaneous machine checks/functions from various sections in CAPI surveys.

Name: Marriage

Description: This area of interest contains (1) the respondent's marital status at each survey date, changes in marital status since last interview, and dates of each marital status change and (2) information on respondent's spouse such as birth/death dates, occupation, educational attainment, labor force status, religious affiliation, and health limitations. The 1988, 1992, and 1994–2002 interviews included questions on marital attitudes and dating experiences of those not currently married.

Sources of Data: The “Marital History” and “Fertility” sections of the questionnaires.

Related Areas of Interest: Additional marital history variables can be found in the “Fertility and Relationship History/Created,” “Key Variables,” and “Attitude” areas of interest.

Name: Military

Description: This area of interest contains information on respondents' enlistment intentions, attitudes toward the military, dates of military service/reserve duty, branch of service, military occupation, pay grade and income, education and training received, and reasons left military or reenlisted.

Sources of Data: The “Military” sections of the 1980 to most recent questionnaire.

Related Areas of Interest: See “Key Variables” and the “Misc. 1979” file for additional 1979 military variables.

Name: Misc. xxxx (formerly MXXVAR)

Description: This area of interest contains miscellaneous variables not grouped elsewhere. These variables are collected in various topical areas from different years.

Name: Periods Not Working within Job Tenure (formerly PERIODNW)

Description: This area of interest contains detailed information on the time periods a respondent was with a job but not working (up to four periods) and reasons for not working for each of five jobs held during the survey year.

Sources of Data: The “Jobs” section of the 1979 questionnaire and the 1980 to most recent *Employer Supplements*.

Related Areas of Interest: Job Information

Name: Profiles – *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)* 1980

Description: This area of interest contains all of the variables from the 1980 administration of the *ASVAB*, including individual respondent scores, scale scores, and standard errors for each of the ten *ASVAB* test sections. Also provided are respondent sampling weight, high school graduate status, characteristics of the test administration for each respondent, and two AFQT percentile scores.

Sources of Data: The *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)*.

Related Areas of Interest: All *ASVAB* administration variables are located within the “Profiles” file. See also the “School Survey” area of interest for aptitude and intelligence scores and the “School” area of interest for other education-specific variables.

Name: School Survey (formerly SCHLSURV)

Description: This area of interest contains all data generated from the 1980 survey of non-foreign schools attended by civilian NLSY79 respondents who had completed a school release form during the 1979 interview. It includes: (1) respondent-specific information on school enrollment status, highest grade attended, remedial classes taken, and scores/percentiles/grade levels for various intelligence and aptitude tests and (2) school-specific information including data on the school’s total enrollment, grading system, types of curricula offered, dropout rate, student body composition, and staffing characteristics.

Sources of Data: Data were collected with the “School Questionnaire” and the “Student’s School Record Information” form, copies of which can be found in the *NLSY High School Transcript Survey: Overview and Documentation*.

Related Areas of Interest: The “Transcript Survey” area of interest contains respondent-specific information on high school coursework.

Name: School

Description: This area of interest contains information on each respondent's school enrollment status, i.e., whether s/he is currently enrolled in school, the highest grade attended or completed, type of high school curriculum, attainment of a high school diploma or GED, major field of study in college, and a variety of other college-related variables.

Sources of Data: The "Regular Schooling" section of each survey instrument.

Related Areas of Interest: The "Income" area of interest contains the total amount of educational benefits received in the past calendar year.

Name: Timings

Description: This area of interest contains select timings from beginning and end of surveys of various CAPI years.

Name: Time Use (formerly TIMEUSE)

Description: This area of interest contains responses to the special set of questions asked in the 1981 survey about each respondent's use of time during the past seven days, e.g., how much time was spent working, commuting, attending school or various training programs, sleeping, watching TV, caring for children, or completing household chores.

Sources of Data: The six "Time Spent" sections of the 1981 questionnaire.

Name: Training

Description: This area of interest contains information on multiple types of vocational/technical training in which a respondent was enrolled since the last interview. Included is information on dates of enrollment and completion, type of school, completion status, and any subsequent training received. Recent surveys have collected data on the usefulness of the training acquired for the respondent's job, whether participation was necessary to obtain a promotion, the benefits of each training program in terms of actually getting a promotion or obtaining a different job, and the transferability of skills (1993–94 series).

Sources of Data: The "Other Training" sections of each questionnaire.

Related Areas of Interest: See also the "Government Training" area of interest. Also see the *Employer Supplements* in 1993 and 1994 for informal training and learning the job information.

Name: Transcript Survey (formerly TRANSURV)

Description: This area of interest contains information collected during 1980, 1982, and 1983 from the school transcripts of civilian NLSY79 respondents. Data are available for up to 64 courses taken by each surveyed respondent including information on high school subject, final grade, source of the final grade, and credit received.

Sources of Data: The separate “Transcript Coding Sheet,” a copy of which can be found in *NLSY High School Transcript Survey: Overview and Documentation*.

Related Areas of Interest: The “Misc. 1981” area of interest contains additional transcript survey variables. The “School Survey” area of interest contains additional school-specific information on enrollment, grading system, and type of curricula offered.

Appendix D: NLSY79 Glossary of Terms

Active Force

An umbrella term used to refer to the regular Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force branches of the Armed Forces as a group. The Reserve and Guard components are not included.

AFDC

Aid to Families with Dependent Children. See also TANF

AFQT

See Armed Forces Qualification Test

AFSC

See Air Force Specialty Codes

Air Force Specialty Codes

An alphanumeric jobs/skills classification system for the Air Force and Air Force Reserves that describes the specific job a person is trained for or assigned to in those branches of the military. (See also DOD-3-Digit.)

Annuities

See Pensions

Armed Forces Qualifications Test

The AFQT determines general aptitude for enlistment in the Armed Forces. Two methodologies of calculating AFQT, developed by the U.S. Department of Defense, have been used to produce two AFQT variables in the NLSY79: R06182. (AFQT80) and R06183. (AFQT89). R06182. is the AFQT percentile score created from the procedures in use in 1980 and consists of the sum of the number of correct scores for the following sections of the *ASVAB*: arithmetic reasoning + word knowledge + paragraph comprehension + 1/2 (numerical operations). R06183. is the AFQT percentile score based on new procedures established in 1989 and is created in the following manner: (1) compute a verbal composite score by summing the word knowledge and paragraph comprehension raw scores; (2) convert subtest raw scores to standard scores for verbal, math knowledge, and arithmetic reasoning; (3) multiply verbal by 2; (4) sum the standard scores for verbal, math knowledge, and arithmetic reasoning; and (5)

convert the summed standard score to a percentile. See the Addendum to Attachment 106 for tables used to convert raw scores to standard scores and percentiles.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

The *ASVAB* is a vocational aptitude test that determines areas of competency in the following 10 areas: general science, arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, numerical operations, coding speed, auto and shop information, mathematics knowledge, mechanical comprehension, and electronics information. The *ASVAB* was administered to more than 94 percent of the NLSY79 in order to establish new norms for the population of potential enlistees. The *ASVAB* is used by Department of Defense (DOD) researchers to improve the ways training and duty assignments are made for those who enter the Armed Forces. It is also used by vocational guidance counselors to assess vocational interest and preparation of students. Standardized scale scores and standard errors are available for each section.

ASVAB

See *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery*

Bonus

See Tips

BPI

Behavior Problems Index.

CETA

See Comprehensive Employment and Training Act

CES-D

Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale. This scale is designed to measure symptoms of depression in the general population.

Cohort

A cohort is a group sharing similar characteristics at a particular point. The cohort selected for the NLSY79 includes 12,686 youth who were age 14–21 on December 31, 1978 (born between January 1957 and December 1964), either civilians residing in the 50 United States (11,406 sample members) or non-civilians on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces in September 1978 and born between January 1957 and December 1961 (1,280 sample members).

Commissions

See Tips

Comprehensive Employment and Training Act

Originally enacted in 1973, CETA superseded the Manpower Development and Training Act of the 1960s. CETA was administered by the U.S. Department of Labor and was designed to provide employment and training opportunities for the economically disadvantaged, under-employed, and unemployed. Under its several titles, CETA provided a variety of services including classroom and on-the-job training, work experience, subsidized jobs with public and private sectors, basic education, and support services such as counseling. The various programs were planned and operated by state and local governments with Federal funding and oversight. CETA legislation expired in the fall of 1982 and was replaced by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA.)

CPS

See Current Population Survey

Current Population Survey

Monthly interviews conducted by the Census Bureau with a scientifically selected sample of households in several hundred sample areas throughout the U.S. The primary purpose of the CPS is to collect up-to-date information about the number of persons in the country who are employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force in a specific survey week. The CPS is the source of the monthly official unemployment rate figures. CPS questions included in the NLSY79 surveys are the same as the CPS questions used to determine employment status and are administered as closely as possible to the method used by the Census Bureau so that findings are comparable.

Delayed Entry Program

A program that allows a person to enlist in the military and then report for active duty at a later time (as many as 365 days later). Individuals enlisting through this program are sworn into their military branch on two occasions: once at the time that they enlist through DEP and a second time when they actually begin active duty. DEP enlistees do not always report for active duty and can be guaranteed, in writing, the type of training and the location that they want.

DEP

See Delayed Entry Program

Dictionary of Occupational Titles

This occupational directory was developed by the Department of Labor as a comprehensive classification system for occupations. It was used to code NLSY79 respondents' 1979 current occupation only. The individual occupations are identified by the 1970 9-digit DOT codes.

DOD-3-Digit

An occupation code using the 1977 Department of Defense 3-Digit Enlisted Occupational Classification System. This numeric coding scheme standardizes the occupational coding across all branches of the military.

DOT

See Dictionary of Occupational Titles

DU

See Dwelling Unit

Duncan Index

An ordinal measure of socioeconomic status that assigns a two-digit prestige score to the Census occupation codes. The index scores are based on education and income distribution ratings and range from 0 to 97. (See Otis Dudley Duncan. "A Socioeconomic Index for all Occupations." In *Occupations and Social Status*, Reiss, Jr., A.J., et. al., New York: The Free Press of Glencoe, 1961).

Dwelling Unit

A single room, or group of rooms, that is intended for separate living quarters. To be considered a separate dwelling unit, it must have either a separate entrance or complete kitchen facilities (stove, sink with piped water, and refrigerator) for the sole use of the household.

ED

See Enumeration Districts

Educational Tuition Assistance Program

The educational benefit package for the Armed Forces Reserves. It is comparable to VEAP.

Employed

See Labor Force and Employment Status

Employer Flap

A cover page for the *Employer Supplement* listing employer name and codes to signify that the job for this employer was government sponsored. Used for the 1979 interview only, it is the same as the first page of the *Employer Supplement* in later years.

Employer Supplement

The *Employer Supplement* is an addition to the youth cohort survey instrument. One supplement is completed for each employer a respondent has had since the date of the last interview. The 1979 interview incorporated five columns in Section 10 of the survey instrument; each column is equivalent to one *Employer Supplement*.

Employment Status Recode

ESR is a variable created from information collected on employment status and provides a standardized employment status code for the sample for each survey year except 2000.

Enumeration Districts

Enumeration districts (ED) are areas used in the geographic control of enumeration activities by the Census Bureau. An ED is the territory assigned to a single enumerator to cover during a census count.

Environmental Variables

County and state codes are assigned for all geographic locations according to the *Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS-5)*. The codes for the respondent's current residence at each interview date are then matched with the 1972, 1977, 1983, 1988, and 1994 *City and County Data Books* (depending on survey year) to obtain characteristics of the county such as population size, crime statistics, industrial diversification, etc. (see specific survey year). These data are available on the Geocode CD to researchers willing to insure their confidentiality.

ESR

See Employment Status Recode

Estates

Regular or periodic income received from estates or trusts.

ETAP

See Educational Tuition Assistance Program

GED

See General Educational Development Test

General Educational Development Test, General Equivalency Diploma

A certificate that is considered by some to be an equivalent to a high school diploma obtained as a result of taking the General Educational Development Test or GED. The test provides a valid means of measuring the educational proficiency of individuals taking the test in comparison with high school graduates.

Geocode

Geographic codes established by the *Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS)* of the National Bureau of Standards. They provide a standardized code for matching the NLS data with the *City and County Data Books* used. The state codes are a two-digit numeric code ranging from 01 (Alabama) to 56 (Wyoming) inclusive of a code for Washington, D.C.; there are some gaps for possible later additions. The SMSA geocode is a four-digit numeric code identifying each SMSA. They are arranged in alphabetical order beginning with 0040 (Abilene, Texas) and ending with 9360 (Yuma, Arizona.) The counties within each state are listed in alphabetical order, with some gaps, beginning with 001 and using almost exclusively odd numbers to allow for additions.

Gross Income

Gross income for all non-farm businesses and professions is defined as all monies received from the sale of goods or for services rendered, as well as the amount of net inventory increase. It does not include proceeds from the sale of capital items such as land, buildings, and machinery. For farms, it is defined as all monies received from the sale of farm products, government subsidies on crops and soil conservation, and income from rental of equipment. It does not include the value of any farm products (such as food and fuel) used by the family or proceeds from the sale of land, buildings, or machinery.

Household Screener

The survey administered in late 1978 to the initial sample of households to locate eligible respondents for the NLSY79 civilian sample. Approximately 75,000 households were screened to identify eligible respondents based on age, sex, ethnicity, and poverty status.

I

An abbreviation for interviewer.

ICD

See International Classification of Diseases

Individual Quarters (IQ)

A term used to describe non-dwelling unit, noninstitutional living quarters.

Industry Census Code

A 3-digit numeric code from the Industrial Classification System used by the Census Bureau to assign codes to industries. The 1970 system consists of 215 industry categories arranged into 12 major groups. It was developed within the framework of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). All industries in all years for the youth cohort were coded using the 1970 codes. Beginning with the 1982 interview, the industry of the respondent's current or last job was also coded using the 1980 codes.

Information Sheet

An *Information Sheet*, which lists pertinent informational items about the respondent that were collected during the previous interview is provided to NORC interviewers. *Info sheet* items include date of birth, marital status, date of last interview, etc. In PAPI surveys, the interviewers referred to the information sheet during the course of the interview in order to ascertain possible updates. The automated CAPI instruments access it automatically to drive the survey.

Int

An abbreviation for interview.

Int Check

Interviewer check questions are used during the course of the interview to check the sample universe and denote the skip pattern for a particular set of questions. The interviewer codes the question based on previous responses or direct observation, without asking the respondent.

Interest on Savings and U.S. Savings Bonds

Includes interest accrued from savings accounts even if the money has been withdrawn. It does not include interest on unredeemed U.S. Savings Bonds; if the bonds were cashed, only the difference between the amount received and the original cost is considered.

International Classification of Diseases

The ICD is a coding system for diseases, injuries, and causes of deaths as adopted by the World Health Assembly. The coding system used is defined in the *International Classification of Diseases*, 9th Revision, 1975, with some minor modifications.

JCI

Job Characteristics Index.

Job Corps

Established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and continued under Title IV of CETA in 1973, Job Corps is a skills/training program designed to assist economically disadvantaged youth who need and can benefit from an intensive educational and vocational training program in order to become more responsible, employable, and productive citizens. The program is operated in a residential group setting.

Job Training Partnership Act

Legislation enacted in the fall of 1982 (Public Law 97-300—October 13, 1982), which authorized federal funds for employment and training. It superseded CETA and placed administrative control with the state in cooperation with local governments. The emphasis is on private sector participation in training, without subsidies for the training of participants.

JTPA

See Job Training Partnership Act

“Knowledge of the World of Work”

The nine multiple-choice items that test the respondent’s ability to determine the duties associated with selected occupations.

Labor Force and Employment Status

All respondents who were either employed or unemployed during the survey are defined as being in the labor force. Employed, unemployed, and out of the labor force are defined as follows:

Employed - All respondents who during the survey week were either (1) at work—those who did any work for pay or profit or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business—or (2) with a job but not at work—those who did not work and were not looking for work, but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because they were taking time off for various reasons.

Unemployed - All respondents who did not work at all during the survey week and (1) either were looking or had looked for a job in the four-week period prior to the survey; (2) were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new job within 30 days.

Out of the Labor Force (OLF) - All respondents who were neither employed or unemployed during the survey week.

Longitudinal Study

The NLSY79 is a longitudinal study that follows the same age cohort of youth (age 14–21 on December 31, 1978) over an extended period of time. The study began in 1979, and personal interviews have been conducted with respondents on a regular basis (annually until 1994 and then biennially); The 1987 survey was administered by telephone.

Manpower Development and Training Act

Legislation initially enacted in 1962 and amended in 1963, 1965, 1966, and 1968 to combat poverty by providing various employment assistance and employment training programs for the unemployed and the under-employed. It was subsequently replaced by CETA.

MDTA

See Manpower Development and Training Act

Military Occupational Specialties

An alphanumeric jobs/skills classification system for Army, Army Reserves, Army National Guard, Marine Corps, and Marine Reserves that describes the specific job a person is trained for or assigned to in those branches of the military.

Military Pay Grades

A pay level classification system for military personnel, used by all branches of the military, that is associated with ranks. The ranks are enlisted (E), officer (O), and warrant officer (W). There are nine enlisted grades, ten officer grades, and four warrant officer grades, with 1 being the lowest grade within each rank. For example, an E-2 is the second lowest rank for enlisted personnel.

MOS

See Military Occupational Specialties

Net Income

For farms and non-farm businesses, the amount of income remaining after operating expenses are subtracted from the total or gross income. For individuals who do not own a business, net income is the same as gross income.

Net Rental Income

Payments received from the rental of room(s), apartment(s), house(s), or any other real estate, after operating expenses are deducted.

Occupation Census Code

A 3-digit numeric code from the 1970 Occupational Classification System used by the Census Bureau to assign codes to occupations. It has 417 separate categories and is divided into 12 major groups. All occupations in all years for NLSY79 respondents were coded using the 1970 codes. Beginning with the 1982 interview, the occupation of respondents' current or last job was also coded using the 1980 codes.

OJT

See On-the-Job Training Program

OLF

See Labor Force and Employment Status—Out of the Labor Force.

On-the-Job Training Program

Includes institutional instruction in a work setting intended to enable an individual to learn a skill and/or qualify for a particular occupation through demonstration and practice. On-the-job training programs conducted under CETA refer to programs in which the government pays a portion of the employee's wages for a certain period of time, and the employer agrees to keep the employee after the training is completed. The subsidy pays the employer for the increased costs of hiring workers whose skill levels are lower than those of regular entry-level employees.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses for all non-farm businesses are defined as the cost of utilities, annual depreciation of machinery and other business property, amount of net inventory decrease, wages and salaries paid to employees, cost of supplies and raw materials, business taxes, and interest on debts. For farms, they are defined as the cost of feed, tools, livestock purchases, wages to farm workers, and depreciation of equipment or buildings. They do not include capital expenditures such as purchase of land or machinery.

Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc. (OICA)

Community-based programs designed to motivate, train, develop, and use the technical skills of community residents in a variety of vocational areas. The activities are aimed at easing local unemployment problems; they work with so-called "unemployables" to enable them to become productive participants in industry.

Out of the Labor Force

See Labor Force and Employment Status

Pensions and Annuities

These include pension and retirement benefits such as federal employee, private employee, self-employed, and military retirement pensions. Benefits paid to survivors of the primary recipient of a pension are also included.

PIAT

Peabody Individual Achievement Test. This test is given to the children of the NLSY79 mothers. See *NLSY79 Child Handbook* for a detailed discussion.

PPVT

Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test. This test is given to the children of the NLSY79 mothers. See *NLSY79 Child Handbook* for a detailed discussion.

Primary Sampling Unit

A primary sampling unit (PSU) of the Census Bureau is composed of either a single county, a group of counties, or an SMSA and is based on population and area constraints. In certain special situations, state-defined units are termed “independent cities” or “parishes.” In these instances, such units are used in the definition of PSU.

Profiles, Profile of American Youth

The name given to describe the *ASVAB* test that was administered to 94 percent of the NLSY79 in the summer of 1980.

PSE

See Public Service Employment

PSU

See Primary Sampling Unit

Public Assistance

Commonly referred to as “welfare,” public assistance refers principally to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC or ADC). Other programs include General Assistance (local titles include Outdoor Relief, Direct Relief, and General Relief) and Emergency Assistance. Food stamps, clothing, free or

reduced rent, public housing, or other non-monetary assistance are not included. With the Welfare Reform Act passed in August 1996, these types of programs were reconstituted as “Temporary Assistance to Needy Families” (TANF) and returned to state control, with some federal guidelines.

Public Service Employment

Authorized under Titles II and VI of CETA, PSE provides public service jobs, either through CETA or WIN, in areas where substantial or temporary service unemployment exists. PSE placements are in government positions or in jobs with private, non-profit service organizations.

R

Abbreviation for Respondent

Ratings

An alphanumeric jobs/skills classification system for the Navy, Naval Reserves, Coast Guard, and Coast Guard Reserves that describes the specific job to which a person in those branches of the military is trained or assigned.

Regular Job

A full-time or part-time civilian job with a definite arrangement to work for pay (or profit) for a specific number of hours or days a month. It includes unpaid work on a family farm or for a family business.

Regular School

A school that provides credit toward an academic diploma or degree, such as an elementary school, junior high school, high school, college, or university, as contrasted with special schools that offer certificates rather than diplomas or degrees. Some courses at special schools or programs (such as technical schools, nursing programs, etc.) do provide credits that can be applied toward a regular academic diploma or degree. These programs are considered regular school.

Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale

A ten-item scale using four-point Likert forced-choice response to measure feelings of self-worth and competence taken from Rosenberg, M., *Society and the Adolescent Self-Image*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1965.

Rotter Scale or Internal-External Locus of Control Scale (Rotter 1966)

A set of statements designed to measure the attitudes of respondents about the degree to which they have control over their own lives.

Royalties

Income received from a percentage of gross sales from books, music, etc.

Sampling Weights

A numeric value calculated on the basis of each respondent's characteristics (sex, ethnicity, year of birth, sample type, and location). The value is adjusted for differential probabilities of selection and attrition and allows for population estimates.

School Survey

A supplemental survey of the non-foreign high schools attended by civilian NLSY79 respondents. The school survey collected information about the characteristics of the school (enrollment, library size, vocational programs, ethnic diversity of students and teachers, etc.), as well as individual respondent characteristics (participation in remedial courses, aptitude and ability test scores, date last enrolled, etc.).

School to Work Transition Program

Authorized under Title III of CETA, the School to Work Transition Program includes a number of pilot projects designed to prepare youth to move smoothly from an educational setting to the work force. Specific goals of the program include helping dropouts obtain a GED while providing them with intensive vocational counseling and a job.

Selected Reserves

Umbrella term used to refer to both the Reserves and the Guard branches of the military service.

SER—Jobs for Progress

SER (Service, Employment, and Redevelopment) is a private, non-profit, community-based manpower organization, headquartered in Los Angeles, which seeks to provide education and skills training and employment placement for the economically disadvantaged, with primary emphasis on Hispanic Americans.

SMSA

See Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

Social Security

Social Security benefits include disability, retirement, and survivors benefits, as well as Black Lung payments made to coal miners and payments made to retired railroad workers under the Railroad Retirement Act.

Special Pay Enlistment Bonus

A bonus of up to \$3,000 (\$2,500 for the Army) paid to encourage enlistment for a 4-year term of service in designated skills of the Armed Forces.

Special Pay Selective Re-Enlistment Bonus

A bonus paid for re-enlistment in critical military specialties that is available only during a problem re-enlistment period between 21 months and 10 years of service. The maximum bonus is \$12,000 (\$15,000 for Navy nuclear power personnel) and is available only for the first re-enlistment in the Army.

SSI

See Supplemental Security Income

Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

An SMSA of the Census Bureau consists of one or more entire counties containing at least one city (or twin cities) having a population of 50,000 or more plus adjacent counties that are metropolitan and are economically and socially integrated with the central city. In New England, towns and cities rather than counties are the basis for defining an SMSA. SMSA boundaries may cross state lines as in the case of Washington, D.C.

Supplemental Security Income

A federal assistance program for aged, disabled, or blind persons whose income falls below a certain level. The program is administered through the Social Security Administration and replaced state welfare programs such as Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Aged, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled.

SWTP

See School to Work Transition Program

TANF

With the Welfare Reform Act passed in August 1996, public assistance programs such as AFDC were reconstituted as “Temporary Assistance to Needy Families” (TANF) and returned to state control, with some federal guidelines.

Tips, Commissions, Bonus

Any payments in addition to base wage or salary received as income. It does not include allowances or other monies received from other household member(s) for chores, etc., done around the home.

Transcript Survey

Sponsored by the National Center for Research in Vocational Education at The Ohio State University, the Transcript Survey was conducted during 1980–83. Information collected includes courses, grades, credits, days absent, and rank in class.

UC Benefits

See Unemployment Compensation Benefits

Unemployed

See Labor Force and Employment Status

Unemployment Compensation Benefits

Payments made by state or local governments to help replace wages lost by a worker who was laid off from her/his job. It also includes payments from a union strike fund to union members for wages lost because of a strike.

Urban League

A non-profit community service organization that works to secure equal opportunities in all sectors of society for Black Americans and other minorities. It uses the disciplines of social work, economics, law, and business management to achieve its goals.

VEAP

See Veteran's Educational Assistance Program

Veteran Benefits

Benefits paid by the Veteran's Administration to former members of the Armed Forces for service or non-service related disabilities. It also includes educational benefits paid to veterans and any payments made to survivors of deceased veterans.

Veteran's Educational Assistance Program

Education assistance program for veterans whose active military service was contracted or began on or after January 1, 1977. VEAP replaced the GI Bill and provides that for every \$1 contributed by the veteran while on active duty, the government will provide \$2, up to a maximum of \$8,100, for educational costs.

Vocational Rehabilitation Programs

Federal/state programs authorized under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that provide a wide range of rehabilitation services for persons with physical and mental disabilities causing a substantial handicap to employment. The programs focus on the individuals' abilities, interests, and needs in order to enable them to pursue gainful employment.

Welfare

See Public Assistance

WIN

See Work Incentive Program

Work Experience Program

Generally operated through CETA or WIN, the Work Experience Program provides subsidized employment in the public sector and in private, non-profit agencies. The work situations are temporary and not expected to lead to more permanent employment. The program is intended to provide experience on a job, to develop occupational skills, to improve work habits, and to allow exposure to various occupational opportunities

Work Incentive Program

Program authorized by the 1968 amendments to Title IV of the Social Security Act, WIN that was designed to help recipients of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) find jobs. This was the only government-sponsored training and employment program that served welfare recipients exclusively. It also provided support services such as vocational counseling and childcare.

Work-Study Programs

Government-sponsored programs designed to help eligible students finance their college education by providing part-time jobs, generally on campus.

Worker's Compensation or Worker's Comp

Payments made by private insurance companies, self-insured employers, or state funds financed under federal and state worker's compensation laws to persons injured in work-related accidents. It includes payments from insurance companies only when the premiums were paid by the employer, not the employee.

Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC)

Authorized under YEDPA, YACC is a government-sponsored program administered by the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, and the Interior. It recruits unemployed youth 16–23 years old to work for up to one year on conservation projects in parks, national forests, and recreation areas.

Youth Community Conservation and Improvement Projects (YCCIP)

A government-sponsored program authorized by YEDPA as a part of CETA, YCCIP is designed to provide highly supervised employment, work experience, and skills training for unemployed youth 16–19 years old. The youth are employed on community-planned projects that produce tangible benefits for the community.

Youth Employment and Demonstration Projects Act of 1977 (YEDPA)

A major effort to employ youth and increase their future employability through coordination of existing employment and training projects and development of new and innovative approaches.

Youth Employment and Training Program (YETP)

Government-sponsored projects that provide a variety of year-round training activities intended to enhance job prospects and career opportunities that will lead to unsubsidized employment. In order to participate in the program, youth must be aged 14–21 and in school or unemployed. Most participants are economically disadvantaged, but 10 percent may be from diverse economic backgrounds.

Youth Incentive Entitlement Pilot Projects (YIEPP)

Authorized under YEDPA, YIEPP is a part of CETA and is designed to demonstrate or test various approaches that will guarantee jobs and training for economically disadvantaged youth 16–19 years old in school or willing to return to school to complete their education.